Import of coal

1863. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether our country needs to import coal;

(b) if so, the details of imports made during the last five years; and

(c) whether the imports made because of shortage of coal or because of quality, or both?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The indigenous production of non coking coal is adequate to meet the entire demand in the country. Low ash content coking coal required for integrated steel plants is, however, not produced in adequate quantities.

(b) Details of imports of all grade of coal into the country during the last five years are given below:

DETAILS OF IMPORT (ALL GRADES OF COAL)

(in million tonnes)
(Data Provisional)

1993-94	7.33
1994-95	10.73
1995-96	12.51
1996-97	14.41
1997-98	17.20

(c) Presently coking coal is being imported into the country for the following reasons:—

(i) To bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability.

(ii) To improve the quality of overall blend for technological reasons for improving blast furnance.

At the present level of customs duty and railway freight of the consumer cost of imported non-coking coal is lower than that of domestic non-coking coal in markets near ports.

Complaints about dumping of Coal

1864. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint about dumping of coal or hard coke, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to stop further dumping of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received from Coal producing companies and coke manufacturers about dumping of chinese coke.

(b) The dumping of chinese coke into the country was examined by the designated authority. After hearing the affected parties and considering the submissions of the parties, the designated authority has imposed an anti-dumping duty of matallurgical coke being imported from China PR at a rate as equivalent to the difference between Rs. 4673/- and the landed value of me-coke|mt.

Revival plan of ECL

1865. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the submission before BIFR in Form "AA" in October 1997, ECL had given an outline of revival plan of ECL within Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when it was decided to change the said plan and the reasons thereor; and

(d) the surplus labour shown in Form "AA" to BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The revival plan submitted by ECL in October, 1997 to BIFR envisaged a positive net-worth for the company by the terminal year of the Ninth Plan by initiating the following major action;

(i) Increase in volume of production.

(ii) improvement in capacity utilisation.

(iii) Downsizing and gainful deployment of available man power.

(iv) Strict cost control measures on controllable expenditures.

(v) Additional revenue generation by export of coal and aggressive marketing drive for supply of coal to customers who are presently importing coal as import substitution and also by changing over the internal consumption to lower grade coal.

(c) The draft plan envisaged that their would be a profit of Rs. 32.11 crores in 1997-98 and Rs. 16.34 crores in 1998-99. In actual fact there has been loss of Rs. 541.89 crores in 1997-98 and projected to be a loss of Rs. 500 crores in 1998-99. The Plan was clearly unrealistic.

(d) The surplus labour as shown in Form "AA" to BIFR is 4928.

Accidents in Coalmines

1866. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal workers who lost their lives in various coalmines accidents in the country during the last three years; State-wise; coalmines-wise;

(b) the details of compensation paid to the family members of the deceased workers;

(c) the reasons for not giving employment to the legal heirs of the deceased workers; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The number of coal workers who lost their lives in various coal mine accidents in the collieries of Coal India Ltd., alongwith the compensation paid is given at the annexure. (Vide Appendix No. 185, Annexure No. 48].

(c) Employment is given to one dependent of the deceased employees of Coal India Ltd.—

(d) In addition to implementation of the statutory requirements of the Mines Act, the coal mines regulations etc. Coal India Ltd., is taking the following measures for prevention all accidents in mines.

(i) Periodical monitoring of the safety status of mines by national level bodies like the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines, the Coal India Safety Board, the monthly meeting of CMDs of companies, etc.

(ii) By physical verification of the safety standards through inspections by trade unions members of the Standing Committee, the Coal India Safety Board, representatives of the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of CII, headquarters as well as the ISO of the subsidiary companies.

(iii) Regular review of the safety standards of the mines by work-